Vol. II. Numb. 5.

# The EXAMINER.

From Thursday *December* 27, to Thursday *January* 3. 1711.

THE Author of the *Management of the War* being my old Adverſary, and lately deſigning to appear again in a *ſecond Triumvirate* of Pamphlets, of which only two have yet ſtarted out, I gladly lay hold on the Occaſion to return him Thanks for his former Civilities: I did, indeed, intend to ſtay till his *third* Part were Publiſhed, that ſo I might cut off all this *Hydra's* Heads at a Blow. I cannot imagin what is the Ground of this Author's Fancy, to run up into the Light, like *Cerberus*, barking with *three* Mouths at once; or, like *Neptune*, overturning Rocks and raiſing Tempeſts with his *Trident*. If he were a Divine, I ſhould believe it was his Cuſtom to Preach *three* Sermons upon one Text, which I ſhould by all means deſire him to avoid, as the moſt tireſom thing to any Audience. I knew a Mountebank, who always preſcrib'd *three* Doſes; and in his Speeches he told the Rabble, that the firſt Doſe ſtirred the Humours; the ſecond carried them off; and the *third*, like a Broom, ſwept every Corner. When I think of this Author, and his *three* Pamphlets, I conceive him popping up his Head behind them; and it repreſents to me the ingenious Conceit in one of *John Overton*'s Pictures I have ſeen of *three* Fools, with this Inſcription under it, *We be Four*. I have read either in *Pauſanias* or *Plutarch*, that the *Crotonians* thought it a very bad Omen, when an *Aſs* brought forth *three* at a Birth: But this is not altogether the Caſe of our Author; who rather ſeems to have the Gift of Superfœtation, like a *HARE*; the ſecond growing in her Womb, while the firſt is born, and the *third* in *Embrio*. If his *third* Production be of a level with the two former, a Man of *three* Grains of Senſe may very well anſwer them all.

It cannot be expected, in ſuch a Paper as this, that I ſhould enter into a long dry train of Argumentation with ſo *wordy* a Writer: On the other ſide, I doubt the Author of the *Conduct of the Allies* will hardly undertake ſo uſeleſs an Office. It is enough to give me, and all Men of plain Reaſon, a Diſguſt and Prejudice by ſeeing him Writing in ſo involved a manner, and uſing all his own Artifice, and what he hath been taught by others, to put Things in a different Light from what they would in themſelves appear. This Author, when he takes half a dozen Facts of the ſmalleſt Conſequence to talk, and by perplexing, confounding and contradicting, without Proof, puzzles his Reader and himſelf, imagines he hath writ an Anſwer. But before I am more particular, I will wait until the Birth of his *third* Eſſay; wherein he gives us hopes of gathering what looſe Remarks he hath let ſlip in his two former. The Gleanings of ſuch a Writer, after himſelf, muſt needs be very entertaining. In the mean time I think it a little hard, that one *good Book* cannot come out in one Age, without producing *three* bad ones, by a ſort of an Equivocal Generation. With what Conſcience can this Man preſume to think we have nothing elſe to do, when his *third* Book comes out, but fall to recollecting what he hath ſaid in the two former? For my own particular, I ſpeak it to my Shame, nothing of either of them ſticks in my Memory, beſides a vaſt number of polite Epithets and loving Appellations: *This is a Lie; that is horribly wicked and unjuſt; extremely fooliſh and malicious; moſt impudently falſe; very perverſe Malice; the moſt proſtitute Creatures of a Party; but to paſs this Nonſenſe, an Aſſertion the moſt ridiculouſly falſe; there is not in the World I believe ſuch another Book, &c.* This, in the Phraſe of the Party, is call'd writing with *Fire*; but it is a ſort of *Fire*, that makes thoſe who deal in it only *burn their own Fingers*, and *raiſe a Smoak*, by which they *ſtink in the Noſtrils* of Mankind.

One *fiery* Paragraph of this Adverſary I cannot but call to mind, where he tells us, *It may be no difficult Matter to gueſs at the Author of the Conduct of the Allies*; and talks in the Stile of a Meſſenger who was going with a Warrant to ſeize him; nay, he deſcribes what Method he would take in the Search. *The Barrier-Treaty*, ſaith he, *and the Two others with* Portugal, *can but be in one Hand, that could have made ſuch uſe of them.* Then he highly blames the Miniſters for letting ſuch Treaties be *Prophaned*, as he calls it. At the ſame time, forgetting that he confeſſes them to be in his own *unhallowed* Hands.

Now

Now I will appeal to any Man, *Whig* or *Tory*, which of the two Authors, that of *The Conduct of the Allies*, or his *Tripple Answerer*, he takes to be Persons of the most Importance: I talk not of the Merits of either Cause; but those Marks that distinguish a Gentleman and a Scholar, from a mean, scurrilous Pedant.

Upon second Thoughts, I can bring to my Mind another Particular: The Author of the *Conduct*, &c. in one part of his Discourse uses an Expression by way of Hyperbole, of *Five hundred to One*; upon which, the Answerer gravely enters into Computation, and proves clearly, from Sir *William Petty* and Dr. *Davenant*, That there are just so many Millions of Souls in *England*; and shews his Adversary to be out in his Account, by I know not how many thousands. This is the Talent of such Dablers who lie upon the Watch to discover the smaller Lapses of great Pens, and are even mistaken in those. But since I am in the Humour of recollecting, I will remember a third Passage of great Moment; and I rather remember it, because I have seen it twice, and seen it in Capitals, for it makes the most prominent part of his Title-Page: His Pieces are called, *The Allies and the late Ministry defended against* France, *and the present Friends of* France, &c. If he propose the Work should answer to the Title, I do, with great Submission, think it was wholly unnecessary, because I never yet heard that *France*, or *the Friends of France*, had ever the least Quarrel with the late Ministry; but on the contrary, reposed entire Trust and Confidence in *several* of them. But if this were design'd for a Turn of Satyr, the Meaning must be, by *France*, Her Maj——y as Q——n of that Kingdom; and consequently by *the Friends of France*, Her Maj——y's Ministers and Council, a great Majority in the House of Commons, and in general the Bulk of the Kingdom. And I doubt not in the least, but this worthy Writer and his Prompters, would gladly defend with their last Blood, were it in their Power, their late beloved Ministry; that is to say, themselves, against *France*, and *the Friends of France*, as I have interpreted the Words.

But enough of this ungrateful Theam at present, when I have one so much better wherewith to relieve my Reader, and close this Paper. I doubt not but every good Subject, and especially in this Juncture, is highly pleased with the Choice of such worthy Persons to encrease the number of our Nobility: And indeed, considering the frequent Failures of Noble Families, especially in this part of the Island, it is of mighty Advantage to the Publick, when a Judicious Prince supplies their Numbers, by Persons Qualify'd by Virtue, Birth and Fortune, for so great an Honour. It is observable, That during the Reign of the late King *William* of Glorious Memory, Twenty new Peers were Created; and of the old Ones Six were extinguish'd. Since Her Maj——y's Accession to the Crown, though it be a shorter Period, the number of Nobility hath been lessened by Sixteen; and with this new Promotion Twenty-one have been in all Created: So that the number of Lords since the Revolution are encreased by Fourteen in the late King's Reign, and by Five in this of Her present Majesty.

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